99TH CONGRESS
1st Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPORT
99-119

JUDICIAL BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING

MAY 15, 1985.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. HOWARD, from the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2416]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Public Works and Transportation, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2416) to direct the Architect of the Capitol to construct a building on the United States Capitol Grounds to provide office space for the judicial branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment strikes out all after the enacting clause of the bill and inserts a new text which appears in italic type in the reported bill.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

H.R. 2416 directs the Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the United States, to construct an office building for the Judical Branch of the Federal Government to be located on a portion of the United States Capitol Grounds bounded by F Street, 2nd Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Columbia Plaza, Northeast, in the District of Columbia. The project shall include connections of such building to the Capitol power plant, construction of approaches to such building, and parking facilities. As soon as practicable, the Architect of the Capitol shall complete feasibility studies, engineering, design, and cost esitmates for construction of the building and shall transmit a report on the results to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and to the Committee on Public Works and Transporation of the House

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of Representatives. The building shall be constructed in accordance with the Master Plan for the United States Capitol, dated 1981.

The Architect of the Capitol is advised that construction of this building, which is essential to the efficiency and operations of the Judicial Branch of the Federal Government, should receive the highest priority. The Architect of the Capitol is directed on a six-month basis to submit a report on the status of construction of the building, which shall include, at a minimum, any time changes in construction, design, and planning, changes in the projected costs of construction, change orders, and changes in design and planning. There is authorized to be appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol $5.5 million for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1985, necessary to carry out feasibility studies, engineering, and design for construction of the building. Lastly, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol sums in the amount of $65 million for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1986, for construction of the building.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Supreme Court building needs arise out of space necessary for consolidating the activities of organizations of the Judiciary, including, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, the headquarters of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and satellite groups such as the Officers of the Clerks of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation and the Board of Certification for Circuit Executives. Further, space should be available to provide chambers for retired Supreme Court Justices, and provide storage space for the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

The Administrative Office of the Courts currently houses personnel at five different locations in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, while the Federal Judicial Center occupies three different locations; in addition, the Judicial Branch printing and storage facility is located in Forestville, Maryland. The geographical disbursal severely hampers, on a daily basis, the efficiency and effectiveness of both agencies. The Judicial Conference of the United States takes note of the fact that having these separate offices creates a major obstacle to the achievement of efficiency and productivity and an undesirable hindrance to the necessary oversight required of the Chief Justice. Last year, the Judicial Conference of the United States unanimously approved a resolution endorsing the construction of a Judicial Branch building on the Capitol Grounds.

The Administrative Office of the Courts was located in the Supreme Court Building until the 1950's, when it outgrew the available spaces. Presently, the Supreme Court Building contains 392,000 gross square feet. The Administrative Office currently occupies 157,145 square feet of space; the Federal Judicial Center occupies 32,644 square feet of space, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation occupies 3,090 square feet of space, or a total of 193,000 square feet of space. The General Services Administration currently assesses the Judicial Branch approximately $2.9 million on an annual basis for use of the aforementioned space. However, on September 14, 1984, the General Services Administration transmitted

to the Congress a prospectus which proposed housing organization of the Judicial Branch in 172,572 square feet of space to be leased for a ten year period at an estimated maximum cost of $51,771,600.

In light of the fact that the Master Plan for the United States Capitol proposes that a building be located on Square 721 and Square 722, east of Union Station, for use by the Judicial Branch, and because of the high cost associated with housing the Judicial Branch in leased space, construction of a Federal Building to house organizations of the Judicial Branch is warranted.

DISCUSSION

H.R. 2416 Directs the Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the United States, to construct an office building for the judicial branch of the Federal Government to be located on a portion of the United States Capitol grounds near Union Station. The building is to provide office and storage space, and other facilities necessary for the administration and operation of the judicial branch. The Architect of the Capitol shall complete feasibility studies, engineering, design and cost estimates for construction of the building, and shall transmit a report on the result of his findings to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives.

The Architect of the Capitol is prohibited from entering into any contract relating to construction of the building until the aforementioned committees are in receipt of the report. Further, no change may be made in the plans, specifications, or cost estimates transmitted to the committee, which if carried out, would cost more than $100,000 or result in a delay of more than 30 days.

Upon completion of the building, the structural and mechanical care shall be the responsibility of the Architect of the Capitol and all other duties and work required for the domestic care and custody of the building shall be peformed by the Marshall of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Architect of the Capitol is directed on a six-month basis to submit a report on the status of construction of the building.

H.R. 2416 authorizes to be appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol $5.5 million for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1985, necessary to carry out feasibility studies, and design for construction of the building. Lastly, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol sums in the amount of $65 million for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1986, for construction of the building.

The committee would like to point out that the General Services Administration had recommended that the judicial needs be met by leasing space in the Washington area; however, in light of the fact the master plan for Capitol Grounds envisions construction of a building for the judicial branch necessary to accommodate the Supreme Court, the committee feels that construction of a Government owned building is the prudent action to take.

COMPLIANCE WITH CLAUSE 2(l) OF RULE XI OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(1) With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no separate hearings were held on the subject matter of this legislation by the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight.

(2) Clause 2(l)(3)(B) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that the report of any Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall include the statement required by section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, if the measure provides new budget authority or new or increased tax expenditures.

With respect to section 308(a)(1)(A), the letter submitted by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under (3) below satisfies the requirement.

With respect to section 308(a)(1)(B), the letter submitted by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under (3) below satisfies the requirement.

(3) With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received a report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act. The report is as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 15, 1985.

Hon. JAMES J. HOWARD,
Chairman, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached cost estimate for H.R. 2416, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to construct a building on the United States Capitol Grounds to provide office space for the judicial branch of the federal government, and for other purposes.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

JAMES BLUM
(For Rudolph G. Penner, Director).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: H.R. 2416.

2. Bill title: A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to construct a building on the United States Capitol Grounds to provide office space for the judicial branch of the federal government, and for other purposes.

3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, May 15, 1985.

4. Bill purpose: The bill authorizes the appropriation of $5.5 million to the Architect of the Capitol for fiscal year 1985 for the study and design of an office building. The bill also authorizes the

appropriation of $65 million to the Architect for fiscal year 1987 for the construction of the building.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

[By fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Authorization level	5.5		65.0			
Estimated outlays	0.1	5.4	26.5	25.5	8.0	5.0

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 800.

Basis of estimate: This estimate assumes the amount authorized will be appropriated. The estimate of outlays is based on information from the Architect of the Capitol's office.

6. Estimated cost to State and local governments: None.

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: None.

9. Estimate prepared by: James Hearn.

10. Estimate approved by: James L. Blum, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

(4) With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has not received a report from the Committee on Government Operations pertaining to the subject matter of this legislation.

(5) With reference to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following information is provided: The effect of carrying out H.R. 2416, as reported, should be negligible with respect to prices and costs.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives required a statement of the estimated cost to the United States which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 2416, as reported, in fiscal year 1985, and each of the following 5 years. There is authorized to be appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol $5,500,000 in Fiscal year 1985, and $65,000,000 for fiscal years 1987 and beyond.

COMMITTEE ACTION AND VOTE

The Committee, in compliance with rule XI(2)(l)(2)(A) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, reports favorably the bill, H.R. 2416, as reported. The Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

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